

Education



General Overview

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for providing educational services throughout the State. The Department's mission is to plan for the educational, training, and rehabilitation needs of Michigan's public school students.

Among the Department's primary functions are assisting the State Board of Education in providing educational leadership, advising the Legislature on the financial needs of schools, administering the State school aid to schools, providing technical assistance to local intermediate school districts, assessing student progress, and approving teacher certification.

Major Divisions and Programs

Special Education and Schools for Blind and Deaf. These offices oversee the administrative funding of education and early intervention programs and services for young children and students with disabilities.

Professional Preparation Services. This office fosters the educational achievement of all Michigan students by assuring that all professional school personnel complete quality preparation and professional development programs that meet standards established by the Michigan Legislature and the State Board of Education.

Office of Great Start. This office provides high-quality early childhood programs and services for all children from birth through age eight, especially those in highest need.

School Improvement. This office is dedicated to providing leadership and assistance at a State and local level to improve academic achievement of Michigan schools and students. It is comprised of six units: School Reform Office, Field Services Unit, Career and Technical Education, Education Improvement and Innovation, Office of Educator Talent and Policy Coordination, and Partnership District Support.

School Finance and School Law. These offices provide leadership and technical assistance on proposed State laws and current laws, the revised school code, the State School Aid Act, administrative rules, nonpublic and home schools, financially distressed schools, and student issues. These offices comprise of the Office of State Aid and School Finance, Financial Management, Audits, and Administrative Law.

Bureau of Assessment and Accountability. This office oversees the various statewide assessments, sets content expectations for each grade level, measures student achievement, and evaluates and ranks school performance based on statewide student assessments and other academic indicators.

School Support. This office administers several Federal and State programs. Federal programs are under the larger Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Program. State programs include Pupil Transportation and Rider Safety programs and the Driver Education Program.

Library of Michigan. This office oversees the collection and preservation of Michigan publications, conducts references and research, and supports public libraries statewide.